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1. This week in the Oireachtas (01 April - 05 April 2013)

Oireachtas closed for Easter. **Rise 28 March – Return 17 April**

2. Oireachtas Questions and Debate (25 March -29 March 2013)

Education: including special needs, ECCE and childminding, minorities, disadvantage, literacy and

Dáil Éireann 27/03/2013: Child Care Costs

Deputy Brendan Griffin asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald her plans to make child-care universally affordable; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032700089?opendocument#WRCC00150>

Dáil Éireann 26/03/2013: Special Educational Needs Services Provision

Deputy Ciaran Lynch asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn if scribe and reader assistance is available to students at times other than for State examinations; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032600066?opendocument#WRJ03250>

Dáil Éireann 26/03/2013: Special Educational Needs Services Provision

Deputy Finian McGrath asked the Minister for Education and Skills Ruairí Quinn when his policy document on educating children with autism will be published in view of the time that has elapsed since the Ombudsman for Children made the recommendations.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032600067?opendocument#WRK00100>

Dáil Éireann 26/03/2013: Croke Park Agreement Issues

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald asked the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform Brendan Howlin if he accepts that the decision of his negotiator in the recently completed Croke Park 2 negotiations to secure the withdrawal of flexible working arrangements will impact excessively on women working within the sector; and the measures he will take to ensure women can continue to participate fully in the public sector work force.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032600069?opendocument#WRM00750>

Asylum/Immigration

Dáil Éireann 26/03/2013 Asylum Seeker Accommodation

Deputy Sandra McLellan asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she is satisfied that the rights, welfare and entitlements of children who live in direct provision accommodation are vindicated under the current system in a manner that is in keeping with the Children First Guidelines; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032600083?opendocument#WRAA00950>

Dáil Éireann 27/03/2013: Unaccompanied Minors and Separated Children

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald asked the Minister for Justice and Equality Alan Shatter the number of separated children seeking asylum here that have gone missing on a yearly basis between 2005 and 2012; and the number of these childrens whereabouts that remains unknown.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032700086?opendocument#WRZ00750>

Dáil Éireann 27/03/2013: Asylum Support Services

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald asked the Minister for Justice and Equality Alan Shatter the number of women in direct provision who have reported incidents of domestic violence on a yearly basis between 2005 and 2012.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032700086?opendocument#WRZ00750>

Dáil Éireann 27/03/2013: Asylum Support Services

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald asked the Minister for Justice and Equality Alan Shatter the number of women in direct provision who have reported incidents of malnutrition on a yearly basis between 2005 and 2012.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032700086?opendocument#WRZ01150>

Dáil Éireann 27/03/2013: Asylum Support Services

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald asked the Minister for Health Dr. James Reilly the medical and psychological services offered to men, women and children housed in direct provision centres.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032700092?opendocument#WRFF00350>

Dáil Éireann 27/03/2013: Asylum Support Services

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald asked the Minister for Health Dr. James Reilly the actions his Department has taken to support vulnerable asylum seekers in direct provision following the National Strategy for Action on Suicide Prevention (2005-2014) identification of this section of the population as particularly at risk of mental health problems, self-harm and other suicidal behaviours.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032700092?opendocument#WRFF00550>

Child Services/ Children in Care: including foster care and social work services, HSE staffing, youth services

Dáil Éireann 26/03/2013: Youth Services

Deputy Sandra McLellan asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald in view of the excellent work done by youth services in Dublin, her plans to reverse her decision to cut their budget in 2013; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032600083?opendocument#WRAA00750>

Dáil Éireann 26/03/2013 Youth Services

Deputy Peter Mathews asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if she will provide an update in respect of funding for a school (details supplied) in Dublin 24; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032600083?opendocument#WRAA01350>

Dáil Éireann 27/03/2013 Youth Services

Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the rationale for removing the administration of funding from Youth Work Ireland National Office to the City of Dublin Youth Service Board; the amount of money that this will save in 2013 and subsequent years; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032700089?opendocument#WRCC00950>

Dáil Éireann 27/03/2013 Youth Services

Deputy Éamon Ó Cuív asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the reason that funding for Youth Work Ireland, Galway, projects under SPY, YPFSF and YIC have been cut by 10% retrospectively from 1 January 2013, rather than the expected 6.5%; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032700089?opendocument#WRCC00550>

Seanad Éireann 27/03/2013 Philanthropy and Fund-raising: Motion

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/seanad2013032700021?opendocument>

Dáil Éireann 28/03/2013: Legislative Programme

Deputy Anne Ferris asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald when the Children First legislation will be published; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032800080?opendocument#WRCC01050>

Dáil Éireann 28/03/2013: Legislative Programme

Deputy Anne Ferris asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald when the legislation to establish the new Child and Family Support Agency will be published; if she intends to publish the heads of the Bill before that; when she expects that the new agency will be established and operational; and if she will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032800080?opendocument#WRCC01050>

Dáil Éireann 27/03/2013: Children in Care

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the number of occasions on which the Health Service Executive has offered to take children in direct provision into care, or partial care, in cases of severe malnourishment or other illness.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032700089?opendocument#WRCC00150>

Family: Including adoption

Dáil Éireann 26/03/2013: Foster Care Provision

Deputy Joan Collins asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald if the parents and or guardians of fostered children highlighted in recent Health Information and Quality Authority reports as potentially not being safe, were informed that this may be the case by social services.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032600083?opendocument>

Dáil Éireann 26/03/2013 Foster Care Provision

Deputy Róisín Shortall asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald further to Parliamentary Question No. 572 of 22 January 2013, if she will ensure that a national register is compiled of foster parents who are not deemed suitable to have children placed with them in order to prevent the scenario whereby foster parents suspended or refused in one health area on child protection grounds are not employed in another health area.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032600083?opendocument#WRAA01550>

Dáil Éireann 26/03/2013 Foster Care Provision

Deputy Thomas P. Broughan asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald further to Parliamentary Question No. 203 of 13 February 2013, if he will outline the situation where individuals who have provided references for foster parent applicants have subsequently withdrawn their references and whether this would lead to the initiation of an enquiry into the foster parent applicants' suitability to care for a child.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032600083?opendocument#WRAA01750>

Child Abuse/Child Protection: including vetting, child abduction

Dáil Éireann 28/03/2013 Child Death Review Group Report

Deputy Róisín Shortall asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald the reason for the delay in the full implementation of the recommendation of the report of the Independent Child Death Review Group to establish an independent child death review mechanism; and the timescale she is working to in relation to this recommendation.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032800081?opendocument>

Dáil Éireann 26/03/2013: Missing Children

Deputy Clare Daly asked the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald in view of Ireland currently holding the EU Presidency, if she will provide a definite time frame for when the EU Missing Children's Hotline 116000 will be operational here; and if she will provide a guarantee that there will be funds available to operate the service annually.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032600083?opendocument#WRAA01150>

Health and Wellbeing: including disability, mental health, substance misuse, primary care, health services, hospital services, obesity, sports facilities

Dáil Éireann 27/03/2013 Speech and Language Therapy

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald asked the Minister for Health Dr. James Reilly the number of children who are waiting over three months, six months, nine months and twelve months to be assessed by the Health Service Executive for speech therapy.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032700091?opendocument#WREEE01250>

Dáil Éireann 27/03/2013 Mental Health Services

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald asked several questions on mental health services.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032700091?opendocument#WREEE01650>

Dáil Éireann 26/03/2013 Guthrie Cards Retention

Deputy Clare Daly asked the Minister for Health Dr. James Reilly if he will direct the Health Service Executive not to destroy the bio-bank of Guthrie cards on or after 31 March in order that there can be proper discussion regarding same in a more informed way and if necessary to enact legislation to save these cards.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032600085?opendocument>

Child Benefit/Social Welfare/Poverty/Housing

Dáil Éireann 27/03/2013 Leaders' Questions

Deputy Micheál Martin: On Sunday last the Sunday Business Post revealed the draft guidelines for the personal insolvency service and outlined that debt deals might force mothers to stay at home and how women could be forced to give up their jobs.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032700003?opendocument>

Dáil Éireann 27/03/2013 Family Income Supplement Application Numbers

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald asked the Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton if he will provide in tabular form the shortest, longest and average waiting time yearly between 2006 and 2012 for family income support applications.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032700079?opendocument#WRS00550>

Deputy Mary Lou McDonald asked the Minister for Social Protection Joan Burton the number of family income support applicants who are waiting over three months, six months, nine month and 12 months for their claims to be processed.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032700079?opendocument#WRS00550>

Dáil Éireann 27/03/2013: Homeless Persons Supports

Deputy Seán Ó Feargháil asked the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government Phil Hogan if he will detail the total amount in Section 10 and any other funding for homeless services made available to each local authority in the years 2010, 2011, 2012; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032700082?opendocument#WRV00650>

Justice Issues/ Human Rights/Equality

Seanad Éireann 27/03/2013 Courts Bill 2013: Second Stage

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/debates%20authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/seanad2013032700033?opendocument>

Dáil Éireann 28/03/2013: In Camera Rule in Childcare and Family Law Proceedings Bill 2013: First Stage

<http://oireachtasdebates.oireachtas.ie/Debates%20Authoring/DebatesWebPack.nsf/takes/dail2013032800007?opendocument#E05500>

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